

REMARKS

The Specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed Foreign Application.

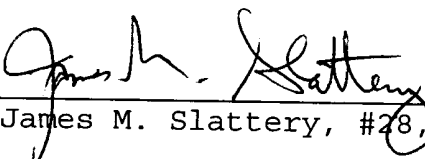
Claims 1-38 are pending in the present application. The claims have been amended to remove the multiple dependencies.

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By   
James M. Slattery, #28,380

JMS/smt

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000